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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE.

BULLETIN NO. 12 OF 1947.

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, FEBRUARY, 1947.

This Bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of the Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of February, 1947. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. The information which follows covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for the benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of the total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The February figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 7,394 males and 198 females; the total of 7,592 being an increase of 102 over January, and 4,692 over October.

End of Month.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1946 - October	..	2,814	86	2,900
	November	3,570	94	3,664
	December	5,971	168	6,139
1947 - January	..	7,262	228	7,490
	February	7,394	198	7,592

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes of earlier months; whilst the figures for December and the early months of 1947 are considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February should be the peak for unemployment benefits paid in this State, as employment in some of the seasonal industries increases during March.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of February was 198, compared with 228 for January. The Rockhampton District figure, 93, was 25 less than the number for January, but it was still much higher than the figure for any other District. These females were mostly workers temporarily displaced from meat works. Toowoomba District had 32 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of February, Brisbane 20, Bundaberg 14, and the balance of 39 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, December, January, and February; together with the change during February for each cause. February figures, like those of the two previous months, stress the severity of seasonal unemployment in Queensland.

Cause of Unemployment.	October.	December.	January.	February.	Increase in February.
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	116	105	100	- 5
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	112	136	131	144	13
Establishment closed, reduction of staff	491	714	801	854	53
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	134	128	131	3
Shortage of materials ..	130	240	260	252	- 8
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	2,363	3,456	3,327	-129
casual work	495	781	909	958	49
Discharged or laid off for other reasons	438	478	484	514	30
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	231	405	413	440	27
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	278	302	324	22
ot previously employed ..	323	494	501	548	47
	2,900	6,139	7,490	7,592	102

The number drawing unemployment benefit in February due to seasonal work decreased by 129, but increases in other causes, principally establishment closed or reduction of staff (53) and casual work (49) - both of these causes being connected with the seasonal nature of some Queensland industries, resulted in an increase of 102 for the month from all causes.

Comparison of the total receiving benefit in each district for October and the three latest months is made in the next statement; the change in number for each district is also shown.

<u>District.</u>	<u>October.</u>	<u>December.</u>	<u>January.</u>	<u>February.</u>	<u>Increase in February.</u>
Ingham	7	49	209	341
Innisfail	15	195	230	327
Brisbane	1,401	1,963	1,989	2,065
Mackay	229	629	756	799
Townsville	127	335	422	460
Ayr	10	88	231	233
Bundaberg	101	550	596	586
Cairns	77	415	536	486
Rockhampton	345	853	1,462	1,318

All these areas except Brisbane are sugar or meatworks districts, and they account for 3,639, or 78 per cent. of the total State increase of 4,692 since October, 1946. These districts accounted for 31 per cent. of the State total last October, but in February, with seasonal unemployment still high, their proportion was 60 per cent. A rainy month probably retarded employment in the sugar areas; but the Rockhampton figure shows an improvement due to increased employment in meatworks.

Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. I) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. The totals along the bottom of the sheet show the numbers unemployed from each cause while the totals on the right show the numbers unemployed in each district, and the number unemployed per 10,000 population in main groups of districts. Although the Moreton Division numbers are the second highest, they represent a much smaller proportion of the district population than is the case for any other Division, except the Downs and South West. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows high figures for the north coast sugar areas, the central meat areas and the south coast sugar areas.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. II shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. The totals at the foot of the sheet give the numbers in each industry group for the State. Food and drink factories have the highest total (30 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit) and the bulk of this is in meatworks and sugar mills. This is followed by agriculture, pastoral, and dairying (23 per cent. of the total) largely sugar workers, building and construction, discharged servicemen and ex-employees of Australian and Allied forces (mostly in Brisbane).

During February in the north coast sugar areas, there was a decrease of 74 from food factories (largely sugar mills), but an increase of 193 from farms. In Rockhampton, food factories (largely meatworks and butter factories) unemployment decreased by 170. In the south coast sugar areas field labour unemployment increased by 22 while unemployment of food and drink factory workers decreased by 59, probably due to increased operations of butter factories. The numbers were well distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville districts.

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ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

TABLE I. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
FEBRUARY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.										Quitted.	Total.
	In medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		
Brisbane ..	39	90	420	65	122	137	327	275	201	108	281	2,065
Ipswich ..	3	7	12	4	7	9	13	7	9	6	17	94
Moreton ..	42	97	432	69	129	146	340	282	210	114	298	2,159
Gympie ..	.	3	5	1	.	3	4	3	.	2	9	30
Maryborough ..	1	2	42	4	21	46	34	10	12	9	31	202
Bundaberg ..	.	3	21	9	14	341	94	7	36	20	41	586
S.E. Coastal ..	1	8	68	14	35	390	132	20	48	31	71	818
Toowoomba ..	7	6	17	6	18	11	28	38	24	11	11	177
Warwick ..	.	1	7	1	2	3	5	1	.	4	5	29
Roma ..	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	2	1	2	.	8
Charleville ..	.	.	1	1	2	36	25	2	2	.	2	71
Downs and S.W. ..	7	7	25	9	22	50	60	43	27	17	18	285
Lockhampton ..	8	11	84	10	32	817	155	36	34	58	73	1,318
Emerald ..	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	5
Longreach ..	.	3	6	2	.	37	3	1	6	3	2	63
Central ..	8	14	90	14	32	856	158	37	40	62	75	1,386
Jackay ..	8	3	12	4	3	569	112	21	22	17	28	799
Yr ..	1	.	31	1	.	164	5	5	10	12	4	233
Owensville ..	9	13	47	8	6	217	.	87	22	27	24	460
Ngham ..	.	.	.	1	6	281	38	.	11	3	1	341
Wirisfail ..	3	.	22	.	8	245	19	2	15	8	5	327
Wims ..	11	2	101	3	3	310	19	9	8	12	8	486
N. Coastal ..	32	18	213	17	26	1,786	193	124	88	79	70	2,646
Marlboro Towers ..	7	.	15	8	5	63	37	5	16	14	12	182
Sherton ..	2	.	6	.	3	11	28	1	5	5	3	64
Lighenden ..	1	.	5	.	.	25	10	2	6	2	1	52
North West ..	10	.	26	8	8	99	75	8	27	21	16	298
TOTAL STATE ..	100	144	854	131	252	3,327	958	514	440	324	548	7,592
												70
												Per 10,000 Population.

TABLE II. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
FEBRUARY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.																
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.		TOTAL.	
Brisbane ..	81	28	197	284	126	143	90	107	176	94	265	119	211	144	2,065		
Ipswich ..	5	4	8	16	6	11	1	4	3	10	3	5	10	8	- 94		
Moreton ..	86	32	205	300	132	154	91	111	179	104	268	124	221	152	2,159		
Gympie ...	6	1	2	3	5	2	.	1	2	3	.	3	2	.	30		
Maryborough ..	40	7	18	44	10	27	15	6	2	11	.	5	15	2	202		
Bundaberg ..	246	29	6	129	8	50	32	9	8	24	2	12	20	11	586		
S.E. Coastal ..	292	37	26	176	23	79	47	16	12	38	2	20	37	13	818		
Wooomboa ..	17	5	12	20	35	29	.	7	8	12	6	8	8	10	177		
Marwick ..	10	.	1	2	1	3	.	.	1	4	1	.	4	2	29		
oma ..	4	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	8	
harleville ..	53	1	.	3	3	6	.	1	.	.	.	2	2	,	71		
Downs and S.W. ..	84	6	13	26	39	39	.	8	9	16	7	12	14	12	285		
Cochampton ..	96	25	10	863	33	67	48	17	26	29	3	35	41	25	1,318		
erald ..	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
ngreach ..	39	.	.	2	3	8	.	3	.	1	.	4	.	3	63		
entral ..	137	25	10	866	36	75	48	22	26	30	3	39	41	28	1,386		
ckay ..	279	18	9	326	25	59	3	9	6	13	4	13	19	16	799		
.. ..	111	11	.	75	7	9	.	4	5	1	2	2	4	2	233		
wnsville ..	31	8	12	219	14	47	19	17	20	11	21	20	14	7	460		
gham ..	214	3	.	87	6	21	.	4	2	.	.	3	.	1	341		
nisfail ..	186	13	4	60	7	37	5	3	2	1	.	6	2	1	327		
lins ..	210	25	2	112	17	53	11	17	3	7	3	14	3	9	486		
N. Coastal ..	1,031	78	27	879	76	226	38	54	38	33	30	58	42	36	2,646		
ters Towers ..	33	11	1	55	7	36	1	5	3	9	2	4	2	13	182		
erton ..	11	7	.	4	6	23	.	7	3	2	.	1	.	.	64		
henden ..	36	1	.	4	3	4	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	1	52		
orth West ..	80	19	1	63	16	63	1	13	6	12	2	5	3	14	298		
TOTAL STATE	1,710	197	282	2,310	322	636	225	224	270	233	312	258	358	255	7,592		

S/T 1980